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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/601,010	07/25/2000	Hiroyasu Kurashina	81752.0090	5151

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EXAMINER	
LAMB, TWYLER MARIE	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2622	4

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/601,010	KURASHINA, HIROYASU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Twyler M. Lamb	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 July 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-60* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-60* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *4*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-28, 36-50 and 58-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakuragi et al. (Sakuragi) (US 5,609,424).

With regard to claims 1 and 8, Sakuragi discloses an image printing method comprising: a regular character string registration step of registering a character string having at least one character as a regular character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49); a regular printing instruction step of instructing regular printing for printing said regular character string, irrespective of whether or not a character string other than said regular character string is being input or edited (col 14, lines 24-34); and a regular printing step of printing a regular character string image corresponding to said regular character string on a printing object as a print image when said regular printing is instructed (col 14, lines 35-52).

With regard to claims 2 and 9, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings, the image printing method further including a regular printing image selection step of selecting anyone of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 3, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular printing image selection step includes: an identifier display step of displaying a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings on a predetermined display screen; and an identifier selection step of selecting anyone of said plurality of types of identifiers (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claims 4 and 10, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular printing image selection step includes: a display-restoring information storage step of storing display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and a display restoration step of restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claims 6 and 13, Sakuragi also discloses further including an arbitrary character string entry step of entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character, wherein at said regular character string registration step, said arbitrary character string is registered as one type of said regular character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claims 7, 15, 37 and 60, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said printing object is a tape (col 5, lines 22-32).

With regard to claim 11, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular print image selection means includes: display-restoring information storage means for storing in

advance display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and display restoration means for restoring said contents displayed at said time of storing said display-restoring information on said predetermined display screen, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 14, Sakuragi also discloses further including: arbitrary printing instruction means for instructing arbitrary printing for printing said arbitrary character string entered; and arbitrary printing means for printing an arbitrary character string image corresponding to said arbitrary character string as said print image when said arbitrary printing is instructed (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 16, Sakuragi also discloses further including a related character string registration step of registering said regular character string as a representative character string, and registering at least one character string related to said representative character string as related character strings, such that said related character strings are correlated with said representative character string, to thereby construct one regular character string group including said representative character string as a representative thereof, and wherein said regular printing step includes a related character string printing step of printing, when a representative character string image corresponding to said representative character string is printed as said regular character string image, at least one related character string image corresponding to at least one of said related character strings such that said at least one related character

string image accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 17, Sakuragi also discloses wherein at said related character string printing step, at least one predetermined related character string image of said related character strings is printed such that said at least one predetermined related character string image accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 18, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of related character strings can be registered as said related character strings, wherein said related character string printing step includes: a related print image selection step of selecting at least one arbitrary related character string of said related character strings: and a related print image printing step of printing said at least one selected arbitrary related character string such that said at least one selected arbitrary related character string accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 19, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings, the image printing method further including a regular printing image selection step of selecting anyone of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 20, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered such that related character strings can be retrieved by using

an identifier corresponding to said representative character string as a retrieving condition, and wherein at said regular print image selection step, any of said plurality of regular character strings is selected based on a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 21, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered such that said representative character string corresponding to said identifier is registered separately therefrom as one type of said related character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 22, Sakuragi also discloses wherein assuming that predetermined two identifiers included in said plurality of types of identifiers are defined as a first identifier and a second identifier, and regular character string groups corresponding to said first identifier and said second identifier are defined as a first regular character string group and a second regular character string group, respectively, at least one of related character strings of said second regular character string group is included in related character strings of said first regular character string group, as a common related character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 23, Sakuragi also discloses wherein related character strings of said first regular character string group and said second regular character string group are registered in a form of matrix data retrievable by any of predetermined multi-dimensional retrieving conditions including said first identifier and said second identifier, and said common related character string is registered as data retrievable by

using either of said first identifier and said second identifier as retrieving conditions (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 24, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered in a form of a list of data which enables related character strings of said regular character string group to be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said regular character string group as a retrieving condition (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 25, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular print image selection step includes: an identifier display step of displaying said plurality of types of identifiers on a predetermined display screen; and an identifier selection step of selecting anyone of said plurality of types of identifiers (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 26, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said identifier display step includes a related character string display step of displaying related character strings which are to printed when each of said identifiers for selection is selected, together with said each of said identifiers corresponding thereto (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 27, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said identifier display step further includes a related character string reading step of displaying, when a predetermined reading instruction is provided in a state of each of said identifiers being displayed, all related character strings corresponding to said displayed identifier in a readable manner (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 28, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular print image selection step further includes: a display-restoring information storage step of storing display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and a display restoration step of restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 36, Sakuragi also discloses further including an arbitrary character string entry step of entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character string, wherein at said regular character string registration step, said arbitrary character string is registered as one type of a regular character string other than said regular character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 38, Sakuragi also discloses further including related character string registration mean for registering said regular character string as a representative character string, and registering at least one character string related to said representative character string as related character strings, such that said related character strings are correlated with said representative character string, to thereby construct one regular character string group including said representative character string as a representative thereof, and wherein said regular printing means includes related character string printing means for printing, when a representative character string image corresponding to said representative character string is printed as said

regular character string image, at least one related character string image corresponding to at least one of said related character strings such that said at least one related character string image accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 39, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said related character string printing means prints at least one predetermined related character string image of said related character strings such that said at least one predetermined related character string image accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 40, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of related character strings can be registered as said related character strings, wherein said related character string printing means includes: related print image selection means for selecting at least one arbitrary related character string of said related character strings; and related print image printing means for printing said at least one selected arbitrary related character string such that said at least one selected arbitrary related character string accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 41, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings, the image printing apparatus further including regular printing image selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 42, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered such that related character strings can be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said representative character string as a retrieving condition, and wherein said regular print image selection means selects any of said plurality of regular character strings based on a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 43, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered such that said representative character string corresponding to said identifier is registered separately therefrom as one type of said related character string; further including a representative phone number selection step of selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of said related character strings further including a representative phone number selection step of selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of said related character strings (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 44, Sakuragi also discloses wherein assuming that predetermined two identifiers included in said plurality of types of identifiers are

defined as a first identifier and a second identifier, and regular character string groups corresponding to said first identifier and said second identifier are defined as a first regular character string group and a second regular character string group respectively, at least one of related character strings of said second regular character string group is included in related character strings of said first regular character string group, as a common related character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 45, Sakuragi also discloses wherein related character strings of said first regular character string group and said second regular character string group are registered in a form of matrix data retrievable by any of predetermined multi-dimensional retrieving conditions including said first identifier and said second identifier, and said common related character string is registered as data retrievable by using either of said first identifier and said second identifier as retrieving conditions (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 46, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered in a form of a list of data which enables related character strings of said regular character string group to be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said regular character string group as a retrieving condition (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 47, Sakuragi also discloses 42, wherein said regular print image selection means includes: identifier display means for displaying said

plurality of types of identifiers on a predetermined display screen; and identifier selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of identifiers (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 48, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said identifier display means includes related character string display means of displaying related character strings which are to printed when each of said identifiers for selection is selected together with said each of said identifiers corresponding thereto (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 49, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said identifier display means further includes related character string reading means for displaying, when a predetermined reading instruction is provided in a state of each of said identifiers being displayed, all related character strings corresponding to said displayed identifier in a readable manner (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 50, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular print image selection means further includes: display-restoring information storage means for storing display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and display restoration means for restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 58, Sakuragi also discloses further including arbitrary character string entry means for entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character string, wherein said regular character string registration means registers said arbitrary character string as one type of a regular character string other than said regular character string (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

With regard to claim 59, Sakuragi also discloses further including: arbitrary printing instruction means for instructing arbitrary printing for printing said arbitrary character string entered: and arbitrary printing means for printing an arbitrary character string image corresponding to said arbitrary character string as said print image when said arbitrary printing is instructed (col 13, line 55 – col 14, line 49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5, 12, 29-35 and 51-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over XX in view of King Jim Co., LTD (King) (EP0849687 A2).

With regard to claims 5, 12, 29-30, 32, 33, 51-52 and 54-55, Sakuragi does not teach wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs.

King discloses a character information processor that includes wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs (col 8, lines 18-22).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi to include wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs as taught by King. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi by the teaching of King to input character strings that could represent at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs as taught by King in col 8, lines 18-22.

With regard to claims 31 and 53, Sakuragi does not teach wherein said related character string further includes at least one of a postal code and a barcode which correspond to said address.

King discloses a character information processor that includes wherein said related character string further includes at least one of a postal code which correspond to said address (col 8, lines 18-22).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi to include wherein said related character string further includes at least one of a postal code which correspond to said address as taught by King. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

of the invention to have modified Sakuragi by the teaching of King to input character strings that could represent at least one of a postal code which correspond to said address as taught by King in col 8, lines 18-22.

With regard to claims 34 and 56, Sakuragi does not teach further including a phone number attribute deletion step of automatically deleting said character string representative of said attribute of said phone number for conversion into a character string indicative of said phone number alone.

King discloses a character information processor that includes further including a phone number attribute deletion step of automatically deleting said character string representative of said attribute of said phone number for conversion into a character string indicative of said phone number alone (col 12, line 48 – col 15-12).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi to include further including a phone number attribute deletion step of automatically deleting said character string representative of said attribute of said phone number for conversion into a character string indicative of said phone number alone as taught by King. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi by the teaching of King to input character strings that could represent at least a phone number as taught by King in col 8, lines 18-22.

With regard to claims 35 and 57, Sakuragi does not teach further including a representative phone number selection step of selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or

said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of said related character strings.

King discloses a character information processor that includes further including a representative phone number selection step of selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of said related character strings (col 8, lines 18-22).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi to include further including a representative phone number selection step of selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of said related character strings as taught by King. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi by the teaching of King to input character strings that could represent at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs as taught by King in col 8, lines 18-22.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler Lamb whose telephone number is 703 - 308-8823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 703-308-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

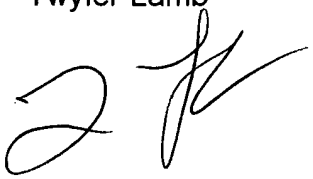
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314
(for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington. VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Twyler Lamb



December 1, 2003